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For Immediate Release
February 9, 2006

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Sen. Stamas hosts Senate panel in Midland to hear local thoughts on graduation requirements

LANSING — Sen. Tony Stamas announced today that he will host the Senate Education Committee on Feb. 16 in Midland to listen to the concerns of residents about proposed high school graduation requirements.

“This is a great opportunity for members of the community to attend a public forum in their hometown and voice their concerns and ideas,” said Stamas, R-Midland. “I encourage everyone to attend this extremely important meeting and share their thoughts and opinions on the proposed high school graduation requirements.”

The hearing will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, at the Midland County Educational Service Agency, 3917 Jefferson Ave., in Midland.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in different subjects:

- Four of English;
- Four of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three of social science, including half-year each of civics and economics, and a year each of U.S. and world history;
- Two of foreign language;
- One of health and physical education; and,
- One of visual or performing arts.

Michigan is among a handful of states that have minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

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